

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes
City of Mount Vernon
October 20, 2015 - City Hall

The Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation Board met on October 20, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. with the following members present: Lori Boren, Catherine Poduska and Scott Rose. Also in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director, Matt Siders, Kurt Wheeler with ASAC and Duane, Leigh Ann Jordan with Adopt A Park program through Sheltered Reality.

1. Approval of the Agenda. Rose would like to move Old Business up to #5 on the agenda. Motion made by Boren, seconded by Cranston to approve the agenda with the above mentioned change. Carried all.
2. Approval of the Minutes from September 22, 2015 meeting. Motion made by Poduska, seconded by Boren to approve minutes. Carried all.
3. Open Forum: Each citizen is limited to 5 minutes.
4. Presentation from Sheltered Reality in regards to Adopt-A-Park program. Leigh Ann Jordan explained Sheltered Reality is a non-profit organization that does presentations through a choreographed drum line that her son is a member of. There is always a message that goes along with it that promotes success, empowerment and being people of good character. They are also very strong into community service projects and they would like to set up an Adopt A Park program for a park in Mount Vernon. Siders suggested two times a year for Nature Park. It would be on a flexible schedule with specific tasks set up. The board was in agreement with this plan.
5. Old Business. Kurt Wheeler with ASAC addressed the board with information on the Tobacco Free survey that was given to the community. There were 153 responses received. The results indicate that 99% of the respondents believe local parks and playgrounds promote health and are primarily youth and family oriented. The second question was, "Do you feel tobacco use in parks and playgrounds can have a negative impact on kids and the environment?" Ninety three percent of respondents responded "yes". The biggest question was, "Should parks and playgrounds be tobacco free". Again, 93% responded "yes". Some communities choose to go nicotine free as well to prevent the use of e-cigarettes. There are signs available through the state for free for those communities that choose to go this route. There are several communities in the area that are either thinking about this or have already passed it. There is also discussion at the county level to go this route at county parks. Siders said the data obviously supports this

and feels that this should be initiated for the next group of Council coming in January. Parks and Recreation will discuss this further at the next meeting in November.

6. Directors Report - September to October 2015. Girls basketball registration is done. Games will be on Saturday's from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Howloween dog costume contest at the dog park will take place again this year on October 31st. Siders recommended to Council that we wait on the pool renovations until a full analysis of the basin is done.
7. Discussion and possible action regarding Master Parks Plan and setting public hearing dates. Members went over formatting changes, narratives and other minor changes. Everyone will review the plan in detail and send any recommended changes to Siders. Discussion will continue at the next meeting in November.
8. Subcommittee reports (Parks, Capital, Pool, Programming, and Volunteer). There was a short discussion on volunteer programs.
9. New Business. No interest forms have been received for the board vacancy yet. Siders is looking for volunteers for Magical Night in December.
10. Motion made by Boren, seconded by Poduska to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Dewell, Deputy Clerk.